

# Central L.B.B. News



February, 2010

It's already the second semester of Learning Beyond the Bell! Boy how time flies when you're having fun. Our students have been involved in some very exciting projects this year. Our goal is to make sure our students get extra exposure to some of the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade ELAR, math and science concepts that are introduced during regular school; presenting those concepts in a unique format so as not to overwhelm the students with the same kinds of lessons that they are exposed to during their regular school day. So far this year they have worked on various math skills (percent, multiplication, division, addition, subtraction, estimation, problem solving,) by way of making smoothies, salsa, tetrahedron kites, sewing, and various other activities. The scientific method has been a focus for many of their science activities. Those activities include projects that involved simple machines, force and motion, measurement, energy, and moon phases. They were especially engaged with the investigations involving M&Ms (Did they take out the red M&Ms without telling anyone?) and bubble gum (Does bubble gum have the same mass before and after it is chewed?)!

The third graders have been really busy with the basics of math facts, scientific method, and understanding literary concepts (Aesop's Fables). But they have also enjoyed experimenting with light sensitive beads and UV rays, making whirly birds, Reader's Theatre, using microscopes to compare and contrast materials, experimenting with light, and games related to animal classification.

This year our fourth grade students were fortunate enough to participate in a Flat Stanley Project. Each student wrote a journal page about a day when Flat Stanley came to visit them. Afterwards we sent the letters off. Some went as far away as New Zealand! We received a short reply from a teacher there, but the school was still on summer break. Our students are waiting with great anticipation to hear back from the students in New Zealand.

Our fifth graders are having a very challenging, as well as exciting, time participating in Destination Imagination. This is the first time L.B.B. students have had this opportunity and it is truly a rich experience. This district sponsored program requires students to think "outside of the

box” as they work together to solve various challenges. We have two teams who will compete on **March 6**. So for the last 3 months they have been VERY busy working on costumes, scripts, and props. We have seen so much progress as they have learned how to work together as a team toward one goal. We are SO proud of the fifth graders and all their hard work!

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts is another wonderful addition to our program this year. The boys especially are ecstatic since we have never had a scout program for them. This is the highlight of every week for all the students as they meet with Scout leaders and take part in fun activities that help build character, confidence, and social skills.

So as you can see, Central’s L.B.B. students are very busy. Once the school day, tutoring, and clubs are over, they arrive for even more excitement! We start our day with a snack and then spend approximately 45 minutes working on homework. Although not everyone finishes, it gives them a good head start. After homework,

students work on various enrichment activities based on their grade level until 4:30pm. They spend approximately one hour in the Academic portion of our program and go home at 5:30pm.

Currently we have 45 students enrolled in L.B.B. and I am very proud of each one of them. Although attending L.B.B. makes for a very long school day, I believe their consistent attendance is a reflection of the student’s and their parent’s dedication to success at school.

I am also very thankful for, and very proud of, our hardworking and dedicated Central L.B.B. teachers- **Mrs. Annis, Mr. Brackett, Ms. Cantu, Mrs. Kosev, Mrs. Shephard, and Ms. Tyler**. They too have long days, but are here faithfully to work with our students as they experience success.

I hope this newsletter gives some insight into what Learning Beyond the Bell has been up this year. As I close, I would just like to highlight those students who have achieved Perfect Attendance for the month of JANUARY. Way to go L.B.B. students!!!

Anarely Abundiz

Daniel Uribe

Juan Benitez

Jada Allen

Irais Vargas

Janie Gutierrez

Zada Allen

Jose Delgado

Bertha Martinez

Jose Calixto

Carlos Gutierrez

Liset Navarro

Romario Guevara

Cesar Hernandez

America Ruvalcaba

Esteban Perez

Everardo Alvarado

Gabriella Salceda



4<sup>th</sup> Graders with Tetrahedron Kites!



3<sup>rd</sup> grade UV bracelets before and after sun exposure.



5<sup>th</sup> Grade D.I. Team- We wish them the best at their March 6 Destination Imagination Competition!